

Double Number with 41st Annual Report

TOC H JOURNAL

NEWS VIEWS AND IDEAS

APRIL 1961



PUBLISHED BY TOC H AT FIFTEEN
TRINITY SQUARE — LONDON EC3



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Your 1961 Holiday?

Toc H Women's Association have been fortunate in booking Philipps House, Dinton, near Salisbury, Wiltshire, August 5-19, 1961. The first week will be primarily for families (Toc H, Toc H Women's Association and their friends). There will be special attractions for children. The second week will be mainly for younger members and friends, but families wishing to book for a fortnight could probably be accommodated. Approximate charges range from 6½-8 gns. with special terms for children under 12.

'Focus on Toc H'

Particulars of this year's photographic competition, open to all JOURNAL readers, are printed at the back of this issue. The pictures should portray some aspect of Toc H, and there are separate sections for black-and-white prints and colour transparencies. Pictures taken with a simple box camera stand an equal chance of success with those produced with the more expensive models.

Ourselves

The Toc H JOURNAL is published monthly eleven times a year. The April issue is a double number and there is no August number. A subscription can commence with any issue and costs only 9s. for a complete year.

N.B.—A price concession to 7s. 6d. per dozen, post free, is made to Branches ordering a minimum of one dozen copies.

THIRTY-NINTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

TOC H JOURNAL



APRIL 1961

Letters and articles are welcomed and are
printed as individual points of view only

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Together with a Supplement

THE 41st ANNUAL REPORT OF TOC H
including Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts,
List of Areas and Branches, Home and Overseas

COVER PICTURE: Wimborne Toc H Male
Voice Choir who, in addition to singing at Toc H
gatherings, give concerts to Blind Institutions,
Old Folk's Homes and aid special appeals over a
30-mile radius.

Photograph by courtesy of Evan Jones, Dorchester

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notes & comment

Gardeners' Chronicle

MOST OF US ARE GARDENERS AT HEART. EVEN though our horticultural efforts often have to be limited to garden plots of pocket handkerchief proportions. It is particularly apt, therefore, that this year's Annual Report should take *A Time to Pluck* for its theme; telling of the patient cultivation that has been carried on throughout the Movement during the past year and providing evidence of how much of the good work has borne fruit. Among the more spectacular achievements reported is the transfer of Headquarters to Tower Hill and the start made in building a brand-new Mark on the site of the Old Mark III at Hackney. Noteworthy, too, is the development of Dor Knap, not only in restoring order to its gardens and roads, but also in its extended use as a training centre. Indeed, the year has seen many signs that the need for training at all levels is at last being generally accepted. Commenting on the many efforts now being made to work for closer fellowship among all Christians, *A Time to Pluck* says: "No one will ever know the full extent of what Toc H has done so far to help break down the divisions . . . it is singularly placed to be a bridge between all Christians, as well as between Christians and non-Christians. Might it be for this very purpose that God 'so wonderfully made Toc H?'"

'A Lamp Burns'

SINCE THE TOC H FILM 'A LAMP BURNS' WAS first 'released' at last year's Central Council meeting, it has been shown to invited audiences in many places well over seventy times, and there are something like a further seventy bookings still to come. There is, however, one important omission from its story in that at present it fails to give any picture of Dor Knap; for the Cotswold training centre was not in being at the time when the film was 'shot'. Now, thanks to the generosity of Mr. Atkinson of Hall Green, Birmingham, who has produced and given us some first-class pictures, work is in hand to insert this new Dor Knap material. There are certain technical obstacles, concerned with the sound track, still to be overcome, but it is confidently expected that a new version, which includes Dor Knap, will shortly be available to all Branches. The cost of hiring remains at 17s. 6d.

Suburban Picture

PETER WILMOTT AND MICHAEL YOUNG HAVING previously produced a survey of life as it is lived today in Bethnal Green, under the title *Family and Kinship in East London*, set out to make an intensive study of a dormitory suburb. They picked on Woodford, in Essex, because its social diversity and mainly middle-class atmosphere promised a strong contrast to the solidarity of working-class Bethnal Green. The result of their enquiries has now been published as *Family and Class in a London Suburb* (Routledge & Kegan Paul, 21s.) and *Toc H* readers will find particularly interesting their examination of the influence of social class upon community life. The authors found Woodford a friendly place, but the friendliness was bounded by class lines. "If middle-class people have friends they are usually middle-class too; if working-class people have friends they are usually working-class too. There were still two Woodfords in 1959, and few meeting-points between them." If this picture is a correct one, there must be many other 'Woodfords' throughout Britain today.

Dor Knap Open Day

AS THE LIST OF BOOKINGS PUBLISHED IN THE January JOURNAL indicated, Dor Knap will be pretty full up with organised parties in 1961. For those who cannot join a party an Open Day has been fixed for WHIT MONDAY, May 22, when car loads, and even coach parties, of members and their families will be welcome.

Those who come are asked to bring their own picnic lunches. Unlimited quantities of tea will be available. If the weather is fine, there will be some sort of brief informal gathering in the garden during the afternoon. Parking-space for cars is limited and late-comers may be asked to disembark at the lodge gates, where coaches also must be abandoned. It is a longish walk from the lodge gates to the house and, with due notice, an effort will be made to organise a shuttle service of cars from there for any elderly or handicapped folk from the coach parties who cannot manage it on foot. The Warden, GEORGE ATKINSON, and DOROTHY his wife, greatly look forward to welcoming a large crowd. It will help if Branches or members making up parties will notify them by postcard in advance. (Address: Dor Knap, Broadway, Worcs.)

Maladjusted Youth

SINCE WORLD WAR II THERE IS HARDLY A country in the world that has remained unaffected by the problem of juvenile delinquency. Called 'Raggare' in Sweden, 'Blousons noirs' in France, 'Halbstarke' in Germany, 'Teddy boys' in Britain, 'JDs' in the U.S., 'Vitelloni' in Italy, 'Mambo' in Japan, 'Stiljagi' in the Soviet Union, 'Hooligans' in Poland, 'Liu-mang' or 'Tai-pau' in China, 'Bodgies' (boys) and 'Widgies' (girls) in Australia, 'Duck-

tail' (white) and 'Skolly' (coloured) in South Africa. 'Tapkaroshi' in Yugoslavia, in each of these countries groups of young people are at variance with the society in which they live. Their revolt against existing conditions is no new thing, and in the past was usually linked with acute poverty and lack of opportunity. While such conditions may still obtain in certain under-developed countries, it is certainly not the primary cause in Britain and much of the Western world. We need to look deeper for the cause, and the work of the Bristol Project team outlined in an article in this issue is a good step in the right direction.

The Man in Blue

THE JOB OF A POLICEMAN CAN NEVER BE AN easy one, and today's enormous increase in road traffic and the consequent increase in driving 'offences', undoubtedly puts additional strain on good relations between the man-in-the-street and the man-in-blue. A memorandum to the Royal Commission on the Police by the Institute of Public Relations says that a good deal of evidence suggested that many policemen felt ostracised by the public. "This sense of being apart from the community must not only make recruitment difficult, but is likely to sour the relationship between the police force as a whole and the public. It would give rise to the feeling that policemen must 'stick together' to defend themselves against the hostile attitude of the public." The institute suggests the setting up of committees to advise the police on how to improve their relations with the public and says that the committees should include members of local authorities, newspaper editors, a headmaster, representatives of voluntary organisations and, if possible, the police themselves. By reason of their duty turns, policemen are often unable to take a full share in the life of the community but there are still plenty of opportunities for Toc H Branches to ensure that, in the best sense of the words, they are 'known to the police'.

'Holiday' in New York

NEW YORK'S TOUGH, COSMOPOLITAN EAST SIDE is the summer destination of the ten young men and five young women who have been chosen as the third group of CLAYTON VOLUNTEERS. They are selected from a total of thirty-one applicants, and will spend the months of July and August working for Churches and youth work agencies. During the day they will be responsible for planning recreational programmes for groups of younger children, and in the evening will help to supervise teenage dances. The Clayton Volunteers range in age from 20 to 26 and the group includes ordinands, social science students, teachers, secretaries, an accountant and a picture restorer. Among those selected for this work is GILLIAN STYLES, a member of the Women's Association, who, while at Bristol University, was a leading member of the Toc H Circle there.

'Stresses and Strains'

THE EDITOR

A short and necessarily incomplete account of an experiment undertaken over the past eight years to try and discover how people on new housing estates in Bristol are coping—or failing to cope—with life's problems

ALTHOUGH there are still more than a million homes in Britain that lack bathrooms, it cannot be denied that, on the whole, the national standards of housing have vastly improved since the war. In many towns and cities, slum dwellings have been replaced by modern buildings, while new housing estates stretch out far into yesterday's countryside. Employment, too, remains at a generally high level and while few people feel their income to be more than barely adequate, living standards remain high. But, looking beyond the bricks and mortar, the regular wage-pocket and the full shopping-basket, there are unmistakeable signs that the stresses and strains of family and community life are still present, notably in those whom we have so easily learned to label 'juvenile delinquents', and may actually have been increased and intensified through these same developments in living conditions.

Careful study

In Bristol, where incidentally the juvenile delinquency figures are almost the lowest of all the big British cities, a careful study of the problem by a Lord Mayor's committee, in 1951, led to the Carnegie United Kingdom Trustees holding a three-day 'work-shop' at Clevedon, to consider how thought and action could be taken further. The work-shop quickly came to the conclusion that juvenile delinquency is a symptom of something that has happened further back—out of public view—and appeared to lie in the pattern of growing up in families and neighbourhoods. A conclusion was also reached that there might well be some useful work to be done in studying the stresses and strains of family life on new housing estates, and in taking a practical part in meeting some of them.

In 1953, this Clevedon work-shop idea was carried a stage further by forming a Bristol Social Project Committee, made

up of prominent citizens and people who live and work on new housing estates. Most of the pioneering research was undertaken by a full-time team of eleven workers, led by Dr. JOHN SPENCER, and included a Canadian social worker, a travelling hardware roundsman, a social worker with youth experience, a psychiatric social worker, a university sociologist who had grown up in a working-class area in Durham, and others for short periods.

In three selected areas of Bristol, this 'Social Project' team spent five years exploring various ways of tackling the 'stresses and strains' in human relationships lying at the root of juvenile delinquency and other socially disturbing behaviour.

Commenting on the team's preliminary report, Professor ROGER WILSON, Chairman of the Project Committee, compared the changes that have taken place in the life of the weekly wage-earning family over the past century. In earlier days, it had a very restricted income and was always threatened by under-employment or total unemployment. Families had to live very much on the ground and there was little chance to get away from one another. The children remained at the same elementary school, and when they began to work, as like as not, tended to take the same sort of job as their fathers. In any event, they had so little money that, perforce, they had to stay around the home and spend their leisure time very locally.

Changed picture

Today's picture is a greatly changed one. People are far less tied to one another economically. "They are no longer tied to the locality for recreation or courting; they do not share the common experience of unemployment and economic insecurity with their neighbours; the local shops are managed by alien managers, not by neighbour-owners. The men work all over the city. The children go further away to bigger schools, with more exciting equipment and a bigger range of potential friends. The adolescents become sexually mature earlier than they did; do not go into their father's occupations; have very considerable amounts of money to spend, and need not spend their leisure in view of their parents or even their neighbours. . . . In short, there is far more room for the family and the individual to exercise *choice* and where choice is real you get diversity of response instead of conformity. And to have to choose where hitherto things have

been decided for you is a very great factor in creating 'stress and strain'."

"Where, hitherto, the people you live among, work with, shop with, have been the same ones year after year, close neighbours with well-known personal qualities and recognizable personalities, city life is now becoming transient, superficial and anonymous. This is the world in which we have to make our choices. And yet, of course, you cannot cut loose from neighbourhood entirely. You are very much concerned about who your children play with and, in many other domestic fields, you are acutely aware of what the neighbourhood thinks."

Calypso Kids

The Social Project team's aim was to influence people living in housing estates to take a greater degree of responsibility for their own social life. An important part of the report deals with work among the Calypsos, a group of Teddy boys and girls, aged between fourteen and twenty. Finding the right person to handle the Calypsos was difficult and the committee were on the look-out for over a year before they found 'Sarah', a thirty-five-year-old Anglo-Israelian from the London School of Economics. She came into the scheme without thought of self-glorification and stressed, when she left, that she wished to remain anonymous.

She had to find her own way into the Calypso Kids confidence and attempt to cultivate them to see values which made life tolerable. She succeeded in establishing with them a personal relationship such as they had never before known. It wasn't easy. There were fights. The Calypsos broke things. They lost the use of the estate's Meeting Room because their language and behaviour upset the citizens. They insulted the woman who was trying to help them. But for two years the club stuck together and during its existence there was only one conviction for delinquency among its members. Several followed after it had ended.

The report recommends, in particular, the appointment of "street workers"—men or women trained in group work methods, "mature in personality and well versed in the customs of Teddy boy society" who would seek out the adolescent gangs at the street corner, the dance hall, the fish-and-chip shop or the cinema.

The gang members dealt with by the Project saw them-

selves as failures. They had been mostly failures at school, were most often employed in the lowest regarded jobs, and were often out of work.

"Part of the reason for their behaving badly, it is suggested, is their sense of inferiority and rejection in a society which values success in certain spheres in which they are conspicuous failures: it is therefore not very likely that their bad behaviour will cease if their sense of worthlessness is exacerbated by public disapproval, and a perverse sense of their own importance is fed by public panic at the sight of their behaviour."

We shall look forward to returning to the matter on publication of the full Report. Meanwhile, the preliminary report doubts whether the undertaking of such group work is a proper responsibility of the local authority at the present stage. The proposal offered a great opportunity for a voluntary body to pioneer in a bold and imaginative manner.

'All Roads Lead'

FRANK FOSTER

As their Keynotes project, three Yorkshire members have produced a set of coloured transparencies together with a taped commentary, outlining the lack of unity between the Churches. Here is an account of its recent showing in London.

USUALLY a Yorkshire invasion of the metropolis takes the form of a benign excursion to display to the Southerner the more recondite arts of cricket. On the evening of March 9, however, GODFREY PRESTON, RALPH JACKSON and DEREK BRAITHWAITE of Shipley Branch were visitors to Toc H Headquarters for another, but no less tutorial, purpose. Before an audience shamelessly described to their faces by JOHN CALF as especially selected for their well-developed critical faculties and their undoubted discernment (or something of the sort) the Shipley team demonstrated the results of skilfully wedding coloured transparencies to a tape-recorded script: in this instance to state the problem of the lack of unity between Christian churches.

The pictorial part of the programme showed the Christian Church in Yorkshire through the centuries from York Minster

by way of Fountains Abbey, Ripon Cathedral and other famous foundations to the 19th century church at Shipley, and a selection of Nonconformist churches of many shades of Christian belief.

The tapescript after telling something of the history and foundation of the early churches portrayed, stated the fact of the present disunity of the Christian Churches and included statements on the present trend towards unity by ministers of the Church of England and of two Nonconformist churches, and the assertion by a Roman Catholic priest that there is only one Christian church.

The Shipley team had set out to state a problem in a graphic manner employing local scenes and local speakers for strictly local consumption. As far as that aim is concerned even if they did not score a bull they got a very good inner. The photography was outstandingly good, the script (as its writer claimed) presented the subject dispassionately, the synchronisation was a model and technically the production could hardly be faulted. It was by any standard a remarkable achievement.

Naturally the audience were not entirely uncritical but the criticism was of the matter rather than of the manner. The producers could hardly have chosen a more explosive subject for a first venture and its impact was such that, unless I am in error, even in this reasonably balanced audience the hackles of religious controversy (prejudice would perhaps be too strong a word) were not entirely quiescent.

But over and above the immediate objective of this particular exercise Shipley have surely scored a further success. They have demonstrated a method by which, equipped with a camera, a projector, a tape-recorder, imagination, infinite patience and a certain amount of technical know-how, any Branch can state a problem to its immediate community with vigour and clarity.

Those who were present at Trinity Square were grateful to the Shipley team for coming to London to give their demonstration. Any Branch or Area within reasonable distance of Shipley would be wise to seek an opportunity of seeing the production.

Shipley have another venture on the stocks. It would be good to know that other Branches, too, are ready to explore this medium.

FAR CRY overseas notes



Contributed by **GEOFF MARTIN**

GENERAL MEMBER IN BRAZIL

EDGAR CABOT who as far as I know is the only member of Toc H in Recife (where recently a certain Portuguese army officer and his supporters finally surrendered the liner they had 'borrowed' while on a pleasure cruise) occupies his spare time with the same energy he has shown as a lone member in other parts of the country. This is what he is up to now, quoted from a letter:—

The old cemetery was established in 1822 and has been neglected recently. It required somebody with energy (in this tropical heat) and capacity for raising funds to renovate the lovely little cemetery chapel and altar; to clean and repair one by one the old graves which have been untended for many years (the latest to be restored is dated 1844); to clear away old bushes, trees and climbing creepers which have got out of hand, and replace with carefully planted palms, which collect their moisture from the atmosphere and have small roots; to clear and repair the high, thick wall round the cemetery which contains hundreds of catacombs. I have been at this most interesting job for over five months now and it is nearly completed to my satisfaction. I wonder if any other Toc H member has ever undertaken the job of restoring a cemetery? This one is full of history—the history of the British Colony at Pennambuco through 138 years. There are still mass graves of those who died in the great plagues of yellow fever; records of many sailors who died on their ships and were brought ashore to be buried; the history of my wife's own family is recorded there for a hundred years, for her great grandfather was the second British Chaplain at Recife and her grandfather was the third!

COLOMBO BOYS' CLUBS

There must be a great many ex-members of Colombo who recall vividly the past adventures of their famous Boys' Clubs. To them the following note from Dr. FRANK BARTHOLOMEUSZ, the Overseas Correspondent of the Branch, will show that the work of the pioneers continues with a new generation of boys.

The annual Inter-club Sports meeting was held on Saturday, October 29, on the Police Club grounds. The three clubs taking part

being Galle Face, Slave Island and Dam Street. Quite a number of Toc H members were present to help Alastair Mac Dowall in running the sports.

Late in the afternoon, all present were served with cakes, refreshments and aerated waters and Mrs. Mac Dowall very kindly assisted in this part of our proceedings. The last item in the programme was a tug-of-war which was keenly contested by the three groups. At the close of the sports our Chairman (Rev. Baillie) called upon Sir John Tabat to give away the prizes, and received three hearty cheers from those present.

Our thanks are due to the Inspector General of Police for the use of their grounds and to his officers for their co-operation.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

The Editor of the Western Australian magazine *The Phoenix*, MRS. ROENNFELDT, has started a literary competition which will leave many of us guessing. We are invited to supply the name of the Toc H book, and its author, from which the following extracts are taken.

- (i) "But it was the Toc H meeting which caught my imagination. The Branch Chairman was a half-caste aborigine, a devoted Christian and keen member of Toc H, and he ruled us with humour and intelligence."
- (ii) "'I should like to join Toc H' said a visitor to the Treasurer after the Branch meeting. 'I've been told it takes time to do that, but if one is elected, what is the subscription?' 'We fix our own subs' replied the Treasurer, 'and we try to be honest about paying according to our means, not just giving what we can spare.'"
- (iii) "I shall never forget a certain Service in Talbot House. The sequel to it was the successful carrying out of a job of picking up and carrying wounded which lasted some days, and appeared next door to impossible."

* * *

GOING PLACES, 1961

Details of parties to Poperinge, Belgium and Holland will be found on page 3 of cover. Individual bookings for the Old House should be made through the Old House Secretary, Toc H Headquarters, 15 Trinity Square, London, E.C.3.

Don't just say brown

—say Hovis

Toc H South Africa

HARRY DEVIS

An up-to-date picture of the Movement in South Africa by the late Editor of "The Compass", written originally for "The Link", the journal of Toc H, Australia.

I HAVE BEEN ASKED to write about Toc H South Africa so that you may have a fair picture of what the Movement is like in this country and, perhaps, make comparisons with it where you live, gain inspiration for further endeavour, and, I hope, pray all the more effectively for the members in South Africa.

First, I ought to state that quite rightly, in essence, Toc H South Africa does not differ at all from the Movement in the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, India, or anywhere else. It is under the same Charter, has a similar Constitution, and is guided by the same Four Points of The Compass. Its fellowship and service are common to members the world over, and the jobs done and the jokes cracked might be in London, Cape Town, or Wellington.

Toc H South Africa, started in a hurry by Harry Ellison in 1926, has always been on the move. Its membership has fluctuated from 1,200 in the early 'thirties to 500 in the late 'fifties. But it has always carried on with courage and much faith. It is well known to people of all races and of all kinds. Its influence has been out of all proportion to the size of its membership.

As it has moved along it has left a trail of big jobs initiated and well done. The Blood Transfusion Service, the Hospital Library Service, Wireless for the Sick, Botha's Hill T.B. Settlement, these are some of the jobs started by Toc H and passed on to Government, Provincial, and Municipal Bodies to carry on. There was the work at Westfort Leper Settlement which owed its inspiration to "Tubby", and about which Eddie Lawson has so sympathetically written in his book, *No More Unclean*. There are, too, the countless Christmas treats and outings for old folk. No doubt, all much as you will find elsewhere: done by men and women of good heart and abounding good will and faith.


But this is not all the story of Toc H South Africa. There

has been more experimenting here than elsewhere with different types of groups of members. There are, or have been. Lunch Hour Units, 5.15 p.m. Units, Joint Units (men and women), Coloured Units, African Units, and now, at last Mixed Units are coming on the scene. Toc H is working with all its influence to bring the different races together and when most Units are 'Mixed' Units it will have achieved its object. For twenty-five years there stood a resolution to the Constitution which raised a Colour Bar. This resolution was rescinded at the September, 1960, meeting of the South African Council and Toc H South Africa will eventually achieve its goal—to have every unit open to membership from all races. With sound common sense and much goodwill this will eventually take place. Be it well noted—not because of pressure from outside the Union, for Toc H here has received neither advice nor reproaches from overseas, but because it is the right thing to do and because the members want it so. I believe in "gradualness" and so long as Toc H South Africa moves forward, as indeed it has been doing during recent years, its ultimate object will be achieved.

Toc H South Africa has suffered severely in recent years from the loss of leaders, but its leadership has remained sound and clear. When I joined the S.A. Executive over six years ago we were a strong team: Eric Faulkner, Chairman; Keith Fleming, Vice-Chairman, Stan Dench, Treasurer; Ron Anderson, full-time Organising Secretary; Alan Paton, Hon. Commissioner; Eric Tucker, Mike Haugh, Denis Etheredge, and Robbie Roberts—of these only Eric Faulkner is left. But there is still a very strong Executive with younger men coming forward to carry on, and there is still leadership of a high order. Hopes are high and there is no hanging back.

Let my last word be this. During the past nine years there has grown a greater readiness to witness to the Christian Faith which is the very foundation of all that Toc H is or can hope to be. The Annual twenty-four hour Vigil (initiated in South Africa) has become an essential part of the family life, and the Fellowship of Prayer has come to stay. If there is a shortage of padres in the Units this shortage is gradually being made good.

For Toc H South Africa there is a great future. The men and women who make up the membership are brave, cheerful, and confident. May they sow well and may God give the increase in His own good time!



MULTUM IN PARVO

much in little



✽ The late Governor-General, VISCOUNT DUNROSSIL, had accepted the office of Patron of Toc H in Australia a few months prior to his death.

✽ The Central Executive have appointed the following to be Vice-Presidents of the Association: The Rt. Hon. RICHARD WOOD, M.P., Minister of Power, son of the late Earl of Halifax; WILFRID LORD, for four years captain and for over thirty years secretary of the Toc H (Manchester) Rugby Football Club.

✽ The Rev. HARRY DEVIS, lately Rector of Melville, Johannesburg, South Africa, and Hon. Editor of *The Compass*, will be working temporarily from May in the Southern Area, based on Mark V, Southampton.

✽ PERCY PERRY has succeeded E. G. PITKIN as part-time Pilot in South Essex.

✽ The ANNUAL REPORT, to be presented to the Central Council on April 15-16, is published in this issue.

✽ The report of the Annual Meeting of the CENTRAL COUNCIL will be published in the June issue.

✽ SOUTHERN COUNTIES FAIR at the Corn Exchange, Brighton, from 2 p.m. on April 19.

✽ NOTTS. & DERBY FESTIVAL at Bakewell on May 6.

✽ SOUTHERN AREA GARDEN PARTY at Mark V, Southampton, on June 3.

✽ RAMBLERS' WEEK, June 3-11: Ask for posters and leaflets from the Ramblers' Association, 48 Park Road, London, N.W.1.

✽ EAST MIDLANDS FESTIVAL at Peterborough on June 10 (not May 27).

✽ TOC H LONDON SPORTS in Battersea Park on June 10.

✽ NORTHERN RALLY at Durham on July 1-2.

✽ GROTON OLD HALL. Weeks in Suffolk from August 12 to September 9.

✽ BEDS. & HERTS. RALLY at St. Albans on September 23.

✽ FOUR SHIRES' RALLY at Oldham, Lancs., on September 30.

✽ SOUTH-WESTERN CONFERENCE at Westward Ho! on September 30 and October 1.

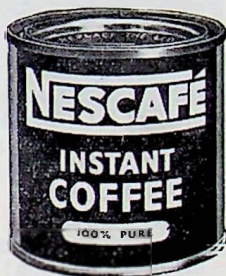
FIRST TASTE TELLS



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this is it! This is how coffee
was meant to taste.

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SN233

The World at his Feet

KEITH REA

VISITING the Polio Ward at a local hospital, Kingsbury group members met Harry Bergman, the mind behind the machine shown below.


After an active life tinkering with cars and 'planes, five years ago Harry became bedridden with polio, was completely immobile, liquid fed and could only talk with great difficulty. Ever cheerful, however, he became dissatisfied with the hospital reading machine, on which he relied, thought out a new principle and guided his brother-in-law to construct the first prototype. Although a success he was not fully satisfied and decided to improve the design and provide machines for the other patients in the ward.



The H & B Reading Machine (Pat. No. 37758/59) will operate magazines as well as ordinary books. Its greatest advantage is its simplicity in setting up, also quickness. A book can be set up in four or five minutes and will give two or three hours reading before a new lot of pages will need setting. It is powered by a 12-volt Lucas electric motor and runs from either a mains transformer or car battery. Further details can be obtained from: Hicks & Bergman, 827, Filton Avenue, Filton, Bristol.

During this time Harry discovered that feet could be useful, he decided to learn to type and use them on an electric typewriter. Now, he carried out all his correspondence, applied for a patent for his machine and sent a flow of other inventive ideas to the newspapers. Wishing fully to support his wife and family he has now decided to market his invention.

An indomitable spirit actuates Harry Bergman. In the Bader tradition all sympathy is passed to the patient in the next bed; but orders for his machine will spur him on—to his next invention!

An illustration at the top of the page shows several arrows in flight, pointing towards the right. On the right, a man with a mustache and a headband is seated at a desk, writing with a quill pen. A nameplate on the desk reads 'EDITOR'.

FROM ALL PARTS direct from areas

SOUTH WESTERN

from Gilbert Francis

MOUNT CHARLES Branch, running a scheme for the exchange of tape-recorded messages between hospital patients and their relations at home, found themselves faced recently with a poser when they were asked by Truro Hospital to tape a message for a seriously ill Greek seaman, and send it home to his family in Greece. The job was duly done and, with the co-operation of the Greek Embassy, the tape was sent off on its long journey, proving once again that Toc H can rise to an emergency. Last year MILBORNE PORT Branch were instrumental in running the World Refugee Appeal in the village, and roped in the three Churches in the village to help them. Now, in order that the co-operation may be continued, the three Churches have taken a step further with the formation of a Council of Churches. Various plans for united action are being made, and Council intends to shortly apply for association with the British Council of Churches.

NORTHERN IRELAND

from C. R. Walker

BANGOR Branch held a Service of Light and Rededication, conducted by the Ven. Archdeacon Quinn, M.A., in Bangor Parish Church on February 23. Besides members, wives and friends, also came members from Belfast and Holywood Branches, in all a very good turn out. The Rector gave a moving address based on "In Thy Light shall we see Light".

After the service all present and those who helped in the service, adjourned to the Church Hall where light supper was provided by the wives of the members. The Chairman of our Branch made a short speech of thanks, and gave a brief outline of the aims of Toc H, coupled with the hope that this Rededication service would strengthen us during the coming year to carry out these aims here in Bangor.

He spoke of the volume of the thanks and appreciation that had been received for the Bus effort, and said they were hoping that this Bus would again be on hand to bring the old, sick and needy on short runs this summer to coastal districts, etc. That was only one of the efforts they had on hand to help, where the welfare state did not touch. No charge was ever made for the use of this Bus. A very enjoyable evening ended with homegoing prayers, led by the Rector.

We are happy to report that the Branch has a full programme ahead for this year, has added new members, and is very much alive to keeping the banner of Toc H flying high in Bangor. It is also the wish that members from across the water would let us know if at any time they are visiting this lovely seaside spot. We would like to meet them and make them welcome.

BEDS. & HERTS.

from Ray Fabes

The capacity thirty members attended the Area Training Weekend held at Diocesan House, St. Albans, at the end of January. Twenty of them were in their first year of membership in the Area. The weekend comprised a very simple but effective and popular 'bread and butter' programme. Rex Calkin started us off in masterly fashion with his round-up of Toc H in his 'Meet the Family'. Discussion groups followed, leading into question and answer sessions which showed the alarming lack of knowledge of Toc H at local level. Sunday morning brought a session on Service with five members from the Area talking on various aspects of Service that they were involved in, covering work with the Elderly, Children, the Disabled, the Stranger in our Midst and Relationships of Men at Work. Alan Hill, the Marks Pilot from Newcastle, our second guest, summed up for us with the account of his personal conviction of faith in the Movement and its future. A number of young heads went back to their Branches in all corners of the Area very much the wiser, and we look forward with confidence to the results of this growing awareness of 'what we are about'.

LINCOLNSHIRE

from George Lee

"Will someone please come and talk to us about Toc H?" That was the request made to the SCUNTHORPE Branch by the local Methodist Men's Fellowship (membership seventy strong). It would have been easy, of course, to lay on a speaker who could talk for thirty to forty-five minutes, but the Branch considered this request required a new approach—why not present the story of Toc H in a new way?

Heads were put together, a rough plan prepared, rehearsed, and knocked into shape, and finally presented in a stage production before almost the full membership of the Fellowship.

Though the lads shied at an 'opening chorus', the story began with slides of the Old House, with appropriate commentary to show "How it Began". Then followed "How it Developed"—an outline of the Main Resolution, Four Points of the Compass, Royal Charter, Marks, Branches.

The next step was "How it all works out" and here, through a poem, sketch and an outline of fellowship and Service in reality, the presentation proved novel and effective.

The Ceremony of Light, preceded by an explanation brought us to "The Heart of the Matter" and this was followed by "Toc H Today", a thumb-nail sketch of Toc H 1961, using as the basis for this section "Toc H—the Good Neighbour" letter used during the 1960 BBC Appeal. Finally questions were put to the panel.

Can the story of Toc H be satisfactorily portrayed in sixty minutes? Scunthorpe's answer is 'yes'; but it requires study, preparation and rehearsing. Each member had a particular part to play in the presentation which meant real homework—a study of that particular part of the Movement's history or work, finally condensed into a few minutes without losing sight of the essentials.

The end product—nearly seventy friends in Scunthorpe know a great deal more about Toc H, and in the process the local Branch members have "rediscovered Toc H" and believe that new approaches are worth planning and tackling.

WEST YORKSHIRE

from John Perkins

On February 11 and 12 CRAVEN District Team held their annual Training Weekend in Bingley Congregational Sunday School. About forty members assembled on the Saturday and the proceedings were opened by the Area Chairman, Fred Brook of Mirfield, in the absence of Padre Ron Smith who unfortunately was down with influenza. We were then given a civic welcome by the Chairman of Bingley U.D.C., Councillor Taylor.



Keighley News

Members and guests at the Craven District annual training weekend.

The first speaker, Dr. T. Priestley of Keighley, gave a very interesting talk on "General Health", saying that common sense was the essence of good health. The speaker stimulated the audience to ask many questions on the aspect of physical well-being and made everyone more aware of their own responsibility in this matter. A District Public Speaking Competition and District Song Contest followed and trophies were presented to the winners, Shipley and Otley.

After a fish-and-chip supper we went for a five mile walk over moorland roads, and rolled into bed about midnight. Those of us who had stayed overnight got up on the Sunday morning to go either to the Free Church Communion in Bingley Congregational Church or to the Anglican Communion in the Parish Church. After breakfast we had a short Service led by Padre Len Rivett.

The next speaker was a doctor from Menston Hospital who spoke on Mental Health. He gave us a brief resumé of the development of treatment over the years; how it had progressed from purely isolation and no treatment, to the modern clinical treatment. It was a very complex subject but we all felt that we had learnt something.

In the afternoon the final speaker was Padre Wilcox whose subject was "Religious Health", and thus the welfare of man in the physical, mental and spiritual fields was covered extremely well during a most enjoyable weekend.

EAST YORKSHIRE

from Bill Hardy

An interesting experiment took place in CLIFTON group, York, recently when our Area Padre distributed copies of old JOURNALS, a different issue to each member, and invited them to find the item which most interested them and be prepared to talk about it for a few minutes at the next meeting. The result was a most lively evening, and greater interest in our magazine was thereby stimulated. WEST HULL Branch said farewell to their energetic secretary, Michael Newbould, who left in February to continue his work for Toc H with the Toc H Services Clubs in Germany. The best wishes of all members in the Area go with him and we shall look forward to hearing from Michael some first-hand information of the work of the Services Clubs.

We are pleased to announce the gift of a baby daughter in January (their first-born), Kesten Barbara, to Goole Branch Padre, Peter Challen and his charming wife, Ruth.

EASTERN LONDON

from Jim Green

There were ten members present when I visited WANSTEAD Branch and I knew that their total strength was fourteen. So I registered a sense of surprise when I heard the Jobmaster, in a quite matter-of-course tone of voice, say that he had twenty-one jobs to distribute. This Branch has enlisted the help of other organisations and has made a special point of forging links with young folk. It has evoked the keen co-operation of the Scouts, of a Crusaders Union Bible Class, and of the six-formers, boys and girls, from the County High School. The work they undertake is largely on behalf of old people, such as shopping, gardening and redecorating rooms. The Jobmaster also went to see the management of a chain of Dairies and secured the co-operation of the milk roundsmen who report any lonely or housebound people in the neighbourhood. Finally, what sort of play would you give in a Blind Home? A schoolmaster member wrote a suitable one and the Branch performed it.

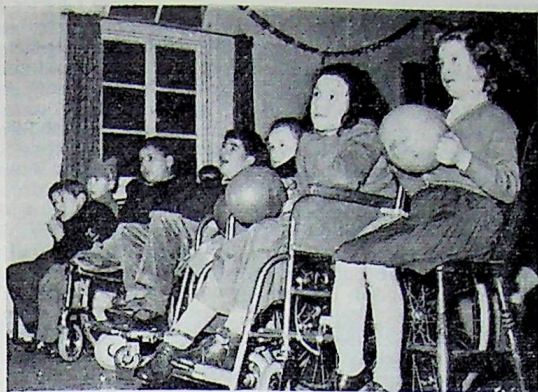
WESTERN

from Johnnie MacMillan

What a queer human menagerie the Toc H Family is! The Get-togethers arranged in this Area not only show a good turn-out of members, an interesting variety of evenings, some with Speakers and others without, but an almost wilful determination to run ourselves down. Yet a great many say—and feel—what a wonderful thing it is to get together and to see that Toc H is bigger than the sometimes limiting four walls of Branch meeting places. Anyhow, District Teams all over the Area are finding a wealth of denial to be stated, we are not on the way out, and an encouraging looking forward—not just by the younger fry, but by some of the 'old yins'!

It would appear—and it does to a great many—that enjoyable though the nights at RODBOURNE CHEYNEY, SOMERTON, HENLEAZE, BATH and STROUD have been, the Movement (and that means you and I as members of the Toc H Family) can only go forward, and however seemingly delectable the criticism of ourselves may be, it really is a terrible time waster.

Human beings, even in a divinely created show, know frustration with each other, but Love is the Power which achieves the Kingdom of God in ourselves and, through us, in all men.



Seecocks Chronicle

Handicapped children from Valence School and John Groom School being entertained to a party and film show by Westerham Branch members.

EAST ANGLIA

from Sydney Smith

The first Luncheon Club of the BROADS District was held at the Vauxhall Gardens Hotel, Gt. Yarmouth, on February 1. Fourteen members enjoyed this 'first edition', which it is planned to hold on the first Wednesday of each month and probably including an occasional guest speaker. Any visiting members to this Area will be most welcome, and should contact F. ('Chummy') James, 24 Bridge Road, Runham Vauxhall, Gt. Yarmouth, or C. ('Cabby') Bowyer, 5 Duke Road, Gorleston-on-Sea.

This district was recently strengthened with the granting of a Rushlight to the CAISTER-ON-SEA group, who have adopted the well-known challenge of a former life-boat coxswain, "never turn back".

Among other activities, this District holds an annual dinner and social, and at the last one in January, some 120 members and friends which included the Bishop of Thetford, 'Pat' Leonard and Helen Beeton who, in their short speeches, regaled the company with some very amusing stories of activities in the early days of Toc H.

During the last two summers, Training Days for BROADS and WAVENEY Districts have been held in the grounds of Lound Rectory, the home of the District Padre, and these have proved most successful in getting a majority of the district members together for a day's discussion and planning, in relaxing surroundings.

Most of the Branches in this District are represented on the Gt. Yarmouth and District Physically Handicapped Committee, a unit of the Norfolk Association which organises the annual two weeks' holiday for handicapped at the Gorleston Holiday Camp. This Association is mainly concerned with the care of the homebound handicapped, and Branch members have undertaken the visiting of them. Their reports are referred back to the committee by an actual Branch member who is also an elected member of the Committee.

NORTHERN

from Charles Young

We hope soon to have news of a new group at BILLINGHAM-ON-TEES, a large developing estate in Teeside District. Meeting place: The Billingham Community Centre. Please send the names and addresses of any likely contacts to: Albert Sturgeon, 11 Sunnyside Avenue, Billingham-on-Tees.

Among Branches in the Area that have pioneered the formation of Youth Clubs meeting on their premises are HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING, THORNABY and ACKLAM. The latter Branch have a Youth Team in a local Football League.

A sincere welcome to the Area and the wider Family of Toc H is extended to BROOKFIELD and THORNABY Branches in Teeside District. Brookfield were presented with their Lamp by the Area Secretary and Thornaby by our then Area Chairman, Tom Hill. Both gatherings were attended by members and friends from Teeside District. We wish both Branches well; may they go from strength to strength.

A recent visit was paid to the Area by Alec Churcher who is the Toc H Training Secretary. The visit ostensibly was to MARK XVIII where he spoke to the Marksmen on Africa, but during his time in the Area, Alec led discussions on "Branch Life and Work" to gatherings in MID-NORTHUMBERLAND, NORTH-WEST DURHAM and TYNESIDE Districts.

Work with boys at Approved Schools in the Area is being done by Branches in the MID-NORTHUMBERLAND District and Marksmen from Mark XVIII. These activities take many forms including boxing, fencing, games and just meeting and talking with the boys. From one of these schools a number of the lads spend part of each week-end at the Mark.

Members from Houghton-le-Spring and Murton Branches help with a scheme at Sunderland Hospital where during the week people, particularly the elderly, are brought from their homes to spend the day at the hospital. This serves a dual purpose, for not only can they receive any medical or personal attention that may be required but is also of a social nature, a Club, helping to break down any fear of loneliness.

An aspect of Toc H work has been and is continuing by NORTH ORMESBY Branch, the installation of television and radio sets given to the Branch in the homes of the elderly. To help the financial side of this job to cover the cost of installing sets an appeal was made to Clubs in the neighbourhood with good results.

WEARSIDE District Branch Jobmasters met together on a recent Saturday afternoon to exchange suggestions and talk over their particular function. The meeting proved most helpful to all present and similar gatherings of District and Branch Officers could be copied with advantage.

RYTON Branch, as a follow-up to a campaign for Blood Donors, arranged and held a Guest-night at which the Toc H Film *A Lamp Burns* was shown and members of the Branch and the Area Secretary spoke briefly on Toc H.

Branches in the Area are making good use of tape recorders with personal messages from folk in the homeland to relatives overseas and the sick in hospitals.

SURREY

from Edward Carter

EPSOM Branch has had a fairly busy winter—starting off in the autumn with some interior house decorating by three or four of our members and Poppy Day was also well supported. A great interest is taken in Belra in this district, one of our members being the local treasurer and he keeps us up to scratch with collections, whist drives, etc. A monthly visit to a children's hospital to mend toys is a Branch 'must'. For the last twelve months we have had a roster, by which a blind person has been taken by car to a hospital to visit her husband three times each week. Tinfoil is another interest—to see about a dozen chaps around a couple of large tables, sorting bottle tops and silver paper, pipes and cigarettes going hard to cover the smell of stale milk, is quite something. Incidentally, any Branch that has not yet tried this will find that it brings in quite a few pounds over the year.



Epsom members mending toys at Cleam Children's Hospital.

Helping Rotary with their Christmas Tree in the centre of the town is also an important event. Last Christmas we were extremely fortunate when a local tradesman gave us a hundred sacks of firewood, which we distributed to the old people. Our Chairman, Stuart Glover is on the committee of the "Friends of the Hospitals" for the Mental Hospital in this locality and a great deal of time is spent by him and some of the members at a Saturday Tea Club, and visiting the patients at the hospital.

Then, of course, our 'big baby' is the Swail House Fête for the blind held each June, which occupies our time for about four months. We start early in the year collecting saleable goods and at Easter commence selling programmes from door to door.

* * *

'FOCUS ON TOC H'

Attention is drawn to the details, together with Entry Form, of the Photographic Competition open to all readers printed at back of this number.

The Elder Brethren

With proud thanksgiving . . .

BRYANT.—On January 30, BASIL ALEXANDER BRYANT, aged 49, a member of Le Court Branch. Elected 27.1.'52.

BURKE.—On November 24, EDMUND JAMES BURKE, aged 77, a member of Milton Branch. Elected 4.10.'50.

CAMPBELL.—On February 26, the Rev. Canon JOHN McLEOD CAMPBELL, M.C., D.D., aged 76, Principal of Trinity College, Kandy, Ceylon, 1924-35. Master of Charterhouse. Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons. Elected 1.1.'22.

COLLER.—On January 21, RICHARD HENRY COLLER ('Reg'), aged 57, a member of Worthing Branch. Elected 26.9.'51.

COXON.—In February, JOHN THOMAS COXON, aged 72, a member of Mutton Branch. Elected 1.3.'55.

CRIBB.—In January, ARTHUR LEWIS CRIBB, aged 96, a founder member of St. Albans and other Branches in Hertfordshire; since 1954, 'Father of the regiment' of the H.A.C. Elected 12.1.'25.

CURRELL.—On February 6, CONRAD PERCY CURRELL, aged 69, a member of Fakenham Branch. Elected 10.11.'55.

DANIELS.—On January 29, GEORGE RALPH DANIELS, aged 63, a member of Sprowston Branch. Elected 27.1.'36.

DAVEY.—On February 7, WILLIAM CHARLES THOMAS DAVEY, aged 63, a member of St. Just Branch. Elected 23.1.'54.

EDWARDS.—On January 31, the Rev. RICHARD FLETCHER EDWARDS, aged 86, a member of Withington Branch and formerly East Salop District Padre. Elected 8.12.'48.

EMERY.—On January 24, JOHN LANGFORD EMERY, aged 71, a member of Woodford Branch. Elected 5.10.'28.

EVANS.—On January 11, THOMAS H. BENSON EVANS, aged 69, a member of Bridgend Branch. Elected 16.12.'37.

FAGG.—On January 7, WILLIAM RICHARD FAGG, aged 89, a member of Riverhead Branch. Elected 15.10.'51.

FREESTONE.—On January 14, MALCOLM MARK FREESTONE, aged 74, a member of Riverhead Branch. Elected 18.12.'48.

GOLDNEY.—On February 9, ALFRED PEEL GOLDNEY, aged 83, a Western London Area member, formerly of Chelsea Branch. Elected 11.2.'34.

HANCOCK.—On February 7, PERCY REGINALD HANCOCK, aged 71, a member of Faversham Branch and late of Brussels. Elected 1.12.'36.

HEUSHAW.—On February 21, WALTER HEUSHAW, aged 65, a South Eastern London Area member, formerly North London Area Correspondent and member of Potters Bar Branch. Elected 3.12.'28.

HOYLE.—On February 22, in Wellington, New Zealand, DOUGLAS RICHARD HOYLE. Radio Officer, m/v *Adelaide Star*. A member of the Central General Branch. Elected 1.12.'27.

KING.—On January 20, GEORGE WILLIAM KING, aged 82, a member of Barton-on-Humber Branch. Elected 19.5.'36.

LAWRENCE.—On December 19, LANCELOT LAWRENCE, aged 70, a member of Attleborough Branch. Elected 1.4.'49.

LYNAM.—On February 4, THOMAS RICKMAN LYNAM, aged 53, a member of Oughtibridge Branch. Elected 28.7.'47.

MARCHANT.—In December, DONALD MARCHANT, aged 28, a member of Denton Branch. Elected 4.10.'55.

MOORE.—On January 21, ALBERT JAMES MOORE, a founder member of Cawood Branch. Elected 7.1.'32.

ROBERTS.—On February 2, EMLYN ROBERTS, aged 47, a member of Colwyn Bay Branch. Elected 18.6.'59.

SMITH.—On December 29, WILLIAM CHARLES SMITH, aged 65, a member of Pontefract Branch. Elected 19.3.'30.

STEVENS.—On January 27, GILMOUR STEVENS, aged 69, a member of Coalville Branch. Elected 6.4.'32.

THOMAS.—On January 15, RICHARD JAMES THOMAS, aged 72, a member of St. Just Branch. Elected 28.9.'55.

VINE.—On January 14, MAURICE JAMES VINE, aged 64, a member of Cambridge Branch. Elected 20.8.'26.

WADE.—On February 16, GEORGE EDWARD WADE, aged 76, a member of Thurlby Branch. Elected 24.4.'36.

WALKER.—On February 19, JOLLIFFE WALKER, a Central General Branch member. Elected 26.3.'26.

WEBB.—On February 24, HARRY WEBB, aged 64, a member of Chepstow Branch. Elected 23.1.'48.

WING.—Suddenly, on January 20, GEORGE ERNEST WING, aged 49, a member of Walpole Branch. Elected 15.1.'60.

WRIGHT.—On February 8, WILLIAM ALFRED WRIGHT ('Abe'), aged 73, a founder member of Richmond Branch. Elected 1.1.'45.

In Memoriam

JOLLIFFE WALKER

"No flowers, no mourning. A small donation to Toc H by those who wish." That is how the notice in *The Times* of Joli's death ended. No flowers: not because he disliked flowers—he grew them and loved them, like all beautiful living things—but no flowers should wither for his funeral. And still more he loved living people, not just good people—that is why he always liked Toc H. As for mourning it would be right out of place for Joli, who used up a long life in giving and receiving joy. To recollect his handsome face, somehow not marred by the black shade over an empty eye socket, and the tones of his warm, eager voice will always bring some of us the touch of wholeness and happiness.

Joli was not like some men, born lucky. Things often went wrong with him and that found him at his best. His father was an artist and he himself had the makings of a fine portrait painter—until he lost an eye on the Gallipoli beaches. Years later he took up his brushes again for love of Tubby and painted a

most moving large Crucifixion, based on a tiny Italian reproduction, which is treasured at All Hallows: it took him years of work at long intervals, for every hour threatened the sight of his remaining eye. Cheated of his chosen career he began to grow oranges in South Africa—until his partner decamped with the takings. Many years later, he grew anemones for market in Cornwall—until cattle broke into the field and trampled the whole season's crop. His greatest happiness was his marriage to 'Dee' in All Hallows (Pat Leonard tied the knot); his greatest sorrow when their only child, the gay, delightful 'J.J.' (Joli Junior), overshot the deck of his aircraft carrier in the Mediterranean and was lost with his companion and plane. That was the moment when the faith and courage of both parents touched the rarest height of all.

Perhaps just because he had known so many setbacks and disappointed hopes himself Joli was quick to turn sympathy into service for anyone in like case. When he joined the staff of Toc H his job never had a name or was anchored to any one Area. He was the devoted odd-job man who went to the heart of the trouble when things or people had gone wrong. When, for instance, the short-lived Mark at Halifax was in very poor shape Joli stepped in and, instead of issuing orders or clearing out recalcitrants, set a quiet example of neighbourliness by sharing his bedroom with an alcoholic, a professional man whom he had found, down but not quite out, in a local doss-house. The early stages of this partnership were unpleasant, but Joli did not leave go until the man was on the rails again in his profession and the other men living in the House had seen a new vision of Toc H at work. And when the Mark at Bristol was likewise in the doldrums Joli went to work on it with his tool-kit of patience, humour and conviction. His first move was to lock up the Branch Lamp in his wardrobe and challenge the Marksmen to win back, by fellowship restored and work done, the right to light it again. Back at Headquarters for a spell in the dark days of depression he occupied a gloomy cavern in the basement of Francis Street for almoner's work, interviewing a motley stream of callers who came to Toc H for help of every kind. The cadgers he showed out, muttering or laughing, those in real trouble he went to infinite pains to help.

The last few years of his retirement in the West Country were shadowed by a stroke which greatly hampered his speech and action, but his wonderful smile, all fun and affection, spoke to his friends when words failed him. One of the last to see him writes: "It was impossible to be with J. for any length of time without feeling the outflow of spirit from him, even at times when he could not talk or communicate. Even when he was asleep to be in his presence was to be in an atmosphere of love."

B.B.



OPEN HUSTINGS

readers' letters



The Editor welcomes letters on all matters concerning Toc H and asks that they be written briefly and to the point. Effort is made to include a representative selection, and they are printed as individual view-points, not necessarily those of the Movement as a whole.

Ceremony of Light

IT WAS to be expected that Barkis' admirable article in the October issue of the JOURNAL should again open up the controversy about the words of the first part of the Ceremony of Light. The correspondence which has followed the appearance of the article has been less than this vital subject merited.

Undoubtedly Binyon's beautiful and moving words were highly suited to the Ceremony in the early years of Toc H and accurately reflected the mood and thoughts of its members at that time.

Nowadays, more than a quarter of a century later, whether they still truly sum up its aims and accurately characterise its spirit is a matter which demands the serious consideration of all those concerned with the future of the Movement.

There seems little doubt that the great majority of members continue to regard the words in the highest respect and reverence, as is frequently illustrated by the emphasis placed on the words "We will remember them" during the Ceremony. But the question arises whether the continued use of Binyon's words is serving Toc H to the best advantage. If we regard the 'Light' of Toc H as symbolic of the Light of

Christ, then as the latter is surely something living, vital, and inspiring, so almost must the 'Light' of Toc H be the source of inspiration, enthusiasm, and spiritual refreshment. 'Light' should therefore not so much remind us of good things of the past as to urge us to better ones in the days to come.

The future of Toc H depends very largely on its younger members, and if 'Light' to them, and indeed to many of our friends outside Toc H, has not much meaning, then surely it is not serving its purpose. Older members may treasure with fervour and sentiment the words of remembrance, but let them take heed, lest in their eagerness to retain something dear to them, yet outmoded, they deny Toc H of the future something essential and fundamental.

It seems desirable in many ways that at our weekly Ceremony of Light we should be clearly reminded of the aims of our Movement, so that we should be in no doubt as to where we are going, and why.

Thus the use of some form of words incorporating the Four Points of the Compass seems called for, and what better than the words of the Main Resolution, which appropriately maintains the connection with the Old House, and yet sets out the aims

of the Movement so clearly and challengingly. With the use of such words 'Light' would at once become a ceremony of dedication and inspiration.

FARMER GILES.

Lee, London, S.E.12.

WHILST I AGREE to a lesser degree some comments by your correspondent. I disagree entirely with this modern craze of doing away with or curbing tradition. In my opinion The Ceremony of Light comes within the category. Without any reservations may Toc H retain the Ceremony of Light in its present form.

On certain occasions individuals who were prominent because of their pleasing personality, or good deeds at respective Marks and Branches are "remembered" but in the main the Ceremony of Light remembers *all* who have passed over in the two world wars and in addition civilians.

The only criticism I respectfully offer is the gabbling of the words in the Ceremony of Light by so many, for they should be quoted with dignity, reverence; alas, not many of the upcoming generation understand or appreciate the whole and true meaning of the words.

All this chatter about heresies is merely poppycock so I repeat leave well alone the Ceremony of Light.

F. W. GARDINER.

Tottenham, London, N.17.

I AM seventy-six years old, and I realise that after my death the words of 'Light' will be quite inappropriate for any who may remember me among the "Elder Brethren".

At the same time I am convinced that, if Toc H is to live, we must retain the Ceremony of

Light in some form. Without this sacramental bond we would disintegrate. It holds us together across all the divisive barriers, makes us one today, keeps us one with the past, and reaches far beyond us into the future. I humbly venture to offer this suggestion towards the devising of a new form.

Jesus said. To whom much is given, of him much shall be required.

Pause.

O Saviour of the world, who by thy Cross and precious Blood hast redeemed us, we thank thee for Thyself; we thank thee also for fair and noble memories of all who have followed thee in sacrifice, for those who gave their lives for others, for those who served in love and sacrifice unto this life's ending, and made earth better by their being here, humbly beseeching thee that we may walk worthily as those who are bought with a great price, and who owe great debts of love and service to thee and for thee, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

ALL—Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee O Lord.

Silence.

Let your light so shine *ff.*

REV. S. F. WARTH.

Darlington.

AS A member of thirty years standing I regret to read in the letter from F. L. Petch in the December JOURNAL that members are still falling into the trap so easily set when 'Light' is badly taken. As a Unit and District Pilot I used to campaign for the words to be spoken thus:—

"They shall grow . . .

Not old as we that are left grow old", etc.

Surely the whole point is that theirs is the better part—to grow in grace and in numbers. We never thought of the Elder Brethren as limited to those who gave

their lives in 1914-18 War but as the whole Church Expectant and Triumphant, beyond the gateway of death.

A. L. CALLOW.

Bardsey, nr. Leeds.

'Brothers of the Angle'

I WASN'T JOHN gone off at the wrong angle in his article in the January JOURNAL? Truly, the task of Toc H is to spread a spirit, but the task of the Branches is to survive, before they can spread the spirit, and how can they survive unless new members are forthcoming? There is such a thing as old members getting old.

With one's head in the clouds one may be able to imagine this great company of well-wishers, allies, Builders, etc. and new members coming, incidentally and gracefully into the Branch; but when you come down to solid earth, as the Branches have to, it doesn't work like that—only occasionally. The plain fact

is that, in practice, you cannot separate with such beautiful logic the surrounding of well-wishers, etc. from the effort to attract new members. Cutting out the rhetoric, the getting of more men into Toc H and the getting of Toc H into more men are not two things, but one. You cannot separate them.

Why, John, should you assume that we old duffers in the Branches treat men as statistics? Where do the requests for statistics come from, anyhow? Do we cross a dead member off our books! (Rhetoric again!) Would you have us leave him on? What right have you to assume that we thereby forget his wife and family?

I wonder whether you are not putting up an 'Aunt Sally' for the pleasure of knocking her down again. But even a worm will turn, you know.

EDWIN WARWICK.

Rickmansworth.

Patient in the Ward

VIC BROWN

WARD 3B stirred into activity. The dull routine, the long hours of waiting, gave place to a feeling of expectancy, suppressed excitement. Fifteen minutes to the evening visiting time and the ward orderly was busy arranging chairs, two to each bed. In the friendly atmosphere of the ward the men exchanged confidences, told of the visitors they expected to see.

"Is anyone coming to see you, David?" said the middle-aged occupant of the next bed.

"I don't suppose so," replied the boy, hopelessly.

David Waterman was sixteen, a lively intelligent youth, well-groomed and good-looking. Two weeks ago he had been enjoying a holiday at Teemouth—until his accident. Why had

he been such a fool on that cliff, he asked himself again and again. And now here he was, immobile, in a hospital bed, two hundred miles from home. He had made friends at the hospital it was true: He had found himself easily the youngest among the men and, in consequence, they had made quite a fuss of him. Real good chaps they were and he felt at ease with them. The nurses, too, seemed to treat him with special kindness, but he wished his mother or some of his pals could drop in in the evenings when people came to visit the others.

There was a clatter as the visitors came bustling in and he pulled the sheets about his ears and pretended to sleep. He knew it was hopeless to try to read—concentration was impossible amid the bedlam of conversation. To put on the headphones was almost as futile. He found himself listening to the conversation from the next beds, dreary and incomprehensible though it seemed to be. He envied the excitement and pleasure of the rest of the ward. "When will they go?" he kept saying to himself. He looked at his watch—still another three-quarters of an hour. He hated the glances of sympathy made in his direction. He wished someone would take away the empty chairs. He felt miserable and conspicuous.

Suddenly a voice spoke, "Haven't you a visitor?" The boy shook his head.

"Can I talk to you then?" He saw a tall fair-haired youth not much older than himself. "Yes, of course," he said.

The other boy sat down and David noticed that he was wearing a badge—did it say 'Toc H'? David felt, sympathetically, that the other boy was as shy and as self-conscious as he was himself, and, to help him, said, "What shall we talk about?" It took five embarrassing minutes of conversational probing before they found common ground in a world of motor-cycles, climbing, cricket and photography. Then the conversation raced along with youthful enthusiasm. David had found a kindred spirit.

The bell rang for the visitors to leave. "Shall I come again?" said David's visitor. "Yes please!" said David eagerly. "By the way what made you come tonight?"

"It's a Toc H idea", the other replied. "Some of us come regularly—Thursday in my case—and our usual method is to hang around to see who hasn't a visitor. I usually go to the long term wards and this is the first time that I've been to this ward—but I'll come again so long as you are here."

"It sounds a super idea", said David.

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